



“What is the motive behind

Islamic Terrorism?

The true meaning of Islam
unveiled.”

Response to Professor Tadros's
Observations on Islam

By M.A. Cheema

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Muslim Sunrise

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“What is the motive behind Islamic Terrorism? The true meaning of Islam unveiled.”

By M. A. Cheema, St. Louis, MO

An article was e-mailed to me by one of my friends for information and reply. It was written by Mr. Victor Tadros, M.A., Arabic/English Translator, professor of Old Testament, P.O. Box 13, A-9503, Villach, Austria. E-Mail TadrosVictor@cs.com.

I am a simple Muslim, and not a great scholar like Mr. Tadros. Rather, I am just learning and trying to understand religions. I have a great respect for all the religions and their founders. This is what I have learned from Islam.

Islam does not teach us to revile or use abusive language against any religion, or to boast of our own teachings or to make fun of others. The Holy Quran says in this regard:

“And revile not those whom they call upon besides Allah, lest they, out of spite, revile Allah in their ignorance.”
(Holy Quran 6:109)

However, Islam gives the full right to defend against the attacks of others and it exhorts us to show the beauties of the religion of Islam.

Even the Bible not only gives the right to defend, but also guides, to respond in a similar style and tone, to open the eyes of the reviler:

“Answer a fool according to his folly lest he be wise in his own eyes.” (*Proverbs 26:5*)

Scholars can play a very good role in bringing people together. But that is only possible if religion is studied in a constructive instead of a destructive manner. On reading this article, my understanding is that the writer has very little knowledge not only of Islam, but also of Christianity. And, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Before criticizing the others one must examine one's own self. It is not good throwing stones at others when one lives in a glass house. How nicely Jesus Christ has advised, in such circumstances:

“And why behold thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but perceive not the beam that is in thine own eye?” (Luke 6:41)

So let me come to the article now, and I will try my best to respond in the light of the Holy Quran and the Holy Bible.

1. Treatment of Women

The writer has mentioned in his article;

“In resorting to violence, Muslims are easily finding passages in the Qur’an and Hadith (Muslim Commentaries) that not only condone violence, but also demand it.

To begin with, Islam allows husbands to beat their wives!!!

An-Nisaa’ “The Women” (Qur’anic Surah No. 4):

[4:34] “Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has made one of them to excel the other. As to those women on whose part you see ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds (as punishment), (and last) beat them.” (If you can’t join’m beat’m!!!).”

My dear, it is not true! Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance; this is why in the same verse of the Holy Quran it is mentioned;

“Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has made one of them to excel the other. As to those women on whose part you see ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds (as punishment), (and last) beat them.” (4:34)

Is this not tolerance that man, being the protector and maintainer, provider of every facility and comfort, if he is mistreated by the wife then first, he should admonish the wife, then refuse to share his bed with her and finally if there is no option left then, beat her? This teaching of the Holy Quran is predicated on the clauses that (1) men are the protectors of women and (2) they maintain their wives. This is the beautiful teaching that Mr. Tadros missed. He jumped over to the punishment part right away. If that is the case, then a comparison of the

women prison population in America with that of the Islamic countries will show how punitive the Western society is towards its women and how greatly women enjoy their married lives in the Islamic countries.

And this punishment is for those who are mentioned in the Holy Quran by the word, "**Nushooz**." And *nushooz* in Arabic means one who is disobedient, one who raises her hand against her husband, and it also means an evil companion. If any wife has such evil qualities then these are the only possible ways to keep her at home otherwise she has full freedom to get a divorce from her husband. Quran never says that the husband must force her to remain at home and keep on chastising her. Compare this to the way western society treated their women in the past. In medieval times they brunt them as witches and put them onto the ducking stool. Today, spousal abuse is so common that there are thousands of criminal cases of spouses being murdered every year. The divorce rate is over 60%. Even worst is the fact that the institution of marriage has gone out of fashion in the Christian world.

But on the other side let me show you the rights given by the Bible to the woman. When we study the Bible through this angle, it has no comparison with the teachings of the Holy Quran at all;

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; **Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.**" (Genesis 3:16)

For man is not from woman, but woman from man. **Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.** (1 Corinthians 11: 8-9)

Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is **shameful for women to speak in church.** (1 Corinthians 14:34-35)

Here is another picture of brutality and cruelty in the Torah, the Law of Moses:

If a woman approaches any animal and has sexual relations with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal;

they shall be put to death, their blood is upon them.
(Leviticus 20:16)

Of course it is a brutal punishment for the woman. But what is the fault of the animal that has no sense of wisdom and understanding?

I am surprised how one raises a finger against the Holy Quran when one has nothing to present from his own teachings.

How would the wife love her husband when the Bible teaches the husband that he should rule over his wife rather than live with her as a partner in marriage?

2. Jesus and Peace

Then he has quoted about Jesus;

Matthew 5:44 "But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

It is one side of the picture, but let me give the other side of Jesus also, which the writer has totally forgotten or ignored, and that is what Jesus said;

"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword." (Matthew 10:34)

This is the true picture of Jesus, which the writer does not like people to know. Fortunately, Jesus could not get power otherwise you would have known the talent of his sword. In his lifetime he tried his best to get power, but the Jews were smart enough to control his designs. He even ordered his disciples to sell their garments to buy swords so as to implement his planning against the Jews, as is clear from the following statement of Jesus:

He said to them, "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "No, not a thing." He said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless;' and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled." (Luke 22:35-37)

Perhaps in the light of these teachings a great number of wars were waged by the Christian nations. They have wrought the greatest devastation, holocaust and genocide.

3. Which Religion is Violent

Then, he has quoted under the title, what does Quran say?

[2.191] "And kill them wherever you find them, and drive them out from whence they drove you out, and persecution is severer than slaughter."

I could not understand what is wrong in the above quoted verse of the Holy Quran?

Holy Quran says *drive them out from whence they drove you out*. Do you think that the Muslims should not even defend themselves? In the article, the impression given is as if the Muslims are ordered to use the sword ruthlessly. It is wrong. Just see the preceding verse of the Holy Quran. This commandment is given as a self-defense measure, nothing more:

And fight in the cause of Allah against those who fight against you, but do not transgress. Surely, Allah loves not the transgressors. (Holy Quran 2:190)

The fight is with those, who first wage the war against the Muslims, not with the peace-loving people. Furthermore, the Holy Quran commands: Do not transgress; do not exceed the limits. So, in these circumstances the Holy Quran commands that when the enemies attack you, start killing you, then you have every right to defend yourself; and if they kill you then you also have the right to kill them. So kill them wherever you find them. Now let me give you a glimpse of the Biblical teaching on killing the people:

"When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are about to enter and occupy, and he clears away many nations before you—the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations mightier and more numerous than you. **And when the LORD your God gives them over to you and you defeat them, then you must utterly**

destroy them. Make no covenant with them and show them no mercy.” (Deuteronomy 7:1-2)

Yes, this is the true face of Christianity. This teaching has been practiced often enough.

4. Meaning of Islam

Then he mentioned in the article;

The word “Islam” does not mean “peace” (Salam), but it means “Surrender to Allah,” or “Submission to Allah.” There is no other religion but Islam, that commands, in a crystal clear and emphatic way, its true-blue followers to kill both Jews and Christians and destroy their properties. Muslims do not want Christian minorities to live in Islamic countries; they do not want the Jews to live at all!

Do not try to cheat people out of the truth by twisting words, Mr. Tadros. Islam and Salam both are from the same Arabic root. And it has both the meanings of peace and submission to the will of God. Can you believe that a person who fully surrenders and submits himself to God, still remains away from peace? No it is wrong, let me quote from the Holy Quran;

“But if they dispute with thee, say I have submitted (**Aslamto**) myself to Allah, and also those who follow me.” (Holy Quran 3:21)

There are no more disputes after submission to the will of Allah, and that is the real peace. Then in more detail Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran:

So, whomsoever Allah wishes to guide, He expands his bosom for the acceptance of Islam; and as to him whom He wishes to let go astray, He makes his bosom narrow and close, as though he were mounting up into the skies. Thus does Allah inflict punishment on those who do not believe? And this is the path of thy Lord leading straight to Him. We have indeed explained the Signs in detail for a people who would be admonished. **For them is the abode of peace with their Lord,** and He is their Friend because of what they did. (Holy Quran 6:126-128)

Whoever is guided by Allah and accepts Islam, for him is the abode of peace. Again, when disputes are submitted to Allah (whose great attribute is being The Most Fair and Equitable in Judgment) then the ultimate result is peace. So, peace and Islam are inter-related. This is why Islam is called the religion of peace.

The Holy Quran never ever commanded the believers to disturb the non-Muslim minorities. What about killing them? It is nowhere mentioned in the Holy Quran or commanded by the Holy Prophet of Islam, to kill the Jews or Christians, or destroy their properties. Islam gives the non-Muslims every right to live respectful, honorable lives and to defend their rights.

Wherever Islam talks about fighting, it talks about defensive wars, not offensive wars, or aggression to create disorder in the land. But if I were to ask about the history of the Biblical Prophets and their bloodshed in the land, the writer of the article will never be able to come up with a good answer.

There is no comparison between the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Biblical teachings. It is like comparing darkness and light. On one side there is justice, tolerance, love, affection, mercy and peace of mind. On the other side, there is injustice, violence, bigotry, intolerance, hatred and frustration of minds.

Let me give an example of the bloody history of the Bible.

"And the children of Israel took all the women of Medians captive and their little ones, and took the spoil of all their cattle, and all their flocks, and all their goods. And they burnt all their cities wherein they dwelt, and all their goodly castles, with fire. And they took all the spoil, and all the prey, both of men and of beasts. And they brought the captives, and the prey, and spoil unto Moses and Eleazar, the priest, and unto the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the camp at the plains of Moab, which are by the Jordan near Jericho." (Numbers 31:9-12)

Here I would also like to quote the destructive behavior of Joshua, the first successor of Moses, as recorded in the Bible:

"So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpets, they

raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat; so the people charged straight ahead into the city and captured it. **Then they devoted to destruction by the edge of the sword all in the city, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys.**" (Joshua 6:20-21)

But Joshua was not an ordinary person. According to the Bible he was a very righteous person and beloved of Moses:

"And Joshua, the son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands upon him." (Deuteronomy 34:9)

5. Salvation

In connection with the salvation, the Professor has mentioned:

"Salvation in Islam, unlike Christianity, is by "works" and not by faith/grace. consequently, Holy War (Jihad) is the highest level of "Submission to Allah" and it is the shortest way to Paradise. Actually it is the only way (100% sure) for Muslims to paradise."

There is no need to give more examples of the holy wars of the Biblical Prophet, and the Biblical teachings, because I have already given some. But here I will discuss the concept of salvation. If writer had studied the Bible he would have not objected to Islam in connection with salvation.

It is true that Islam not only teaches to have faith but also to do good works because faith without works is nothing. The Holy Quran says,

"Surely, those who believe and do good deeds, will have Gardens of Paradise for an abode" (Holy Quran 18:108)

The Bible also acknowledges the concept of salvation presented by Islam. And the so-called theory of salvation of Christianity is discarded by the Bible. On the Day of Judgment it would not be accepted by Almighty God. Let me present the true salvation in the light of New Testament, which is the exact Islamic teaching about salvation:

"What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a

brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to him, 'go in peace, be warmed and filled' without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? **So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.**" (James 2:14-17)

So Mr. Tadros, according to your own Scripture, your concept of salvation is dead, nothing else.

What you have mentioned in the article, "*Holy War (Jihad) is the highest level of "Submission to Allah" and it is the shortest way to Paradise*" is also wrong, it seems that you are totally ignorant of Islamic teachings. Let me tell you what the Holy Quran say.

"And whoso obeys Allah and this Messenger of His shall be among those on whom Allah has bestowed His blessings, namely, the **Prophets**, the **Truthful**, the **Martyrs**, and the **Righteous**. And excellent companions are these." (Holy Quran 4:70)

These are different grades and levels of Submission to Allah, according to the Holy Quran. and they are in proper sequence.

1. **Prophets**

2. **Truthful**

3. **Martyrs**

4. **Righteous**

And here the Martyrs come at the third level, not at the first level, as you have quoted in your article. I would write in detail in the next pages in response to your allegation against Jihad under number 7.

6. Meaning of the Word Allah

In connection with the word **Allah** you have mentioned;

"What is the meaning of the word 'Allah'? 'Allah' was the name of a stone idol in the shape of a crescent. It was worshipped by the pagans in Muhammad's time. Allah was not just a god among the 360 idols worshipped in Arabia but was considered the 'Supreme God of the Moon'. That's why we still see the Crescent Symbol on each and every mosque. The common belief in Arabia was that the female goddess of the sun got married with the male god of the moon 'Allah' and gave birth to three goddesses called

"The Three Daughters of Allah," i.e. Al-Lat, Al-Uzza and Manat. The issue of the "Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdi is about the intercession of the three daughters of Allah which is accepted by God according to Muhammed: "Al-Lat wal-Uzza wal-Gharaneek Al-Uzmah, inna shafa'atahunna laturtaga (their intercession is considered by God). Later on, Mohammed denied those verses and said that they came to him by mistake through Satan instead of Gabriel the Arch Angel. (Just a technical error! Have a good day Mohammed! You are the weakest link! Good by!) How can a 'supposedly divine prophet' like Muhammed mix up between the voice of Gabriel the angel and that of the Devil and how can an 'allegedly holy book' like the Qur'an include some Satanic Verses? I wonder if Satan managed—by Mohammed's confession—to inspire some of the Qur'anic verses, how can we know that the whole Qur'an is not inspired by Satan himself?

These are all inventions of your mind and they have not even the remotest relation with reality. If there were anything real then you would have quoted directly from the Holy Quran. Just as I am quoting from the Bible so in all fairness you should quote from the Holy Quran, which is the most authentic source of all the information. There was no idol named Allah that was worshiped in Arabia. It is fabrication and a concocted story presented by you. It is neither mentioned in the Holy Quran nor in the sayings of the Holy Prophet of Islam. Those are the best source for the history of Arabia in that era. If what you are saying were correct, then why did not the Arabs of that age, object to the Holy Prophet of Islam? The sole point of difference between him and his Arab persecutors was that he invited them to believe in Allah while they believed in their idols, which in Islam is called Shirk.

Furthermore, there was no interference of Satan in the revelation that came down from Allah to the Holy Prophet of Islam. Last but not the least, was no such verse, which he has quoted, revealed to the Holy Prophet of Islam.

Actually it is not his fault. This is what the Christians have been hearing since their childhood from their elders. Even their Holy Book contains similar statements. Worshipping of images and their glorification is a part of their faith. All the Holy men and the Prophets are painted in their culture. As to Satan, let us see who kept him

company? According to the Scriptures, Jesus Christ remained in the company of the devil for forty days. This is what is disturbing this Professor of the Old Testament, because he cannot prove the piety of Jesus who played in the hands of Satan.

"Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing; and when they were ended, he afterward hungered." (Luke 4:2)

7. Meaning of Jihad

Then, the Professor says,

"Islam, unlike Christianity and Judaism, does not give Muslims any assurance of going to heaven. Meanwhile, if a Muslim "Mujahed"—i.e. one who engages in holy war (Jihad)—dies in battle, he is more than certain to go to (Al-Jannah) heaven (or rather Paradise). Al-Jannah, from the Islamic viewpoint, is a place full of all kinds of carnal delights, luxury of food and sexual pleasures".

It is entirely wrong what the writer has mentioned above that: "Islam unlike Christianity and Judaism, does not give Muslims any assurance of going to heaven." The Holy Quran repeatedly gives glad tidings to the believers to enter into Paradise, but not in the way the Professor's dream would have it—that without any deed and action the Christians will enter into Paradise. I have already proved this to be wrong according to the Bible. Let me now quote from the Holy Quran about these glad tidings of Heaven, made to the Muslim believers.

"And vie, with one another in asking for forgiveness from your Lord, and for a Paradise whose price is the heavens and the earth, prepared for the God-fearing. Those who spend in prosperity and adversity, and those who suppress anger and pardon men; and Allah loves those who do good; And those who, when they commit a foul deed or wrong themselves, remember and implore forgiveness for their sins—and who can forgive sins except Allah?—and do not persist knowingly in what they have done. It is these whose reward is forgiveness from their Lord, and Gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they shall abide; and how good is the reward of those who work!" (Holy Quran

Again, the Almighty Allah says,

“Except those who repent and believe and do good deeds. These will enter Heaven, and they will not be wronged in the least. Gardens of Eternity, which the Gracious God has promised to His servants in the unseen. Surely, His promise must come to pass.

They will not hear therein anything vain, but only greetings of Peace: and they will have their sustenance therein, morning and evening. Such is the Heaven, which We give for an inheritance to those of Our servants who are righteous”. (Holy Quran 19:61-64)

Then it is again mentioned in the Holy Quran about the promise conveyed to the Holy Prophet concerning Paradise on the basis of performance of good deeds as one of the preconditions to entering the Gardens of Paradise:

“A Messenger, who recites unto you the clear Signs of Allah, that he may bring those who believe and do good deeds out of every kind of darkness into light. And whoso believe in Allah and does good deeds—He will make him enter Gardens, through which rivers flow, to abide therein for ever. Allah has indeed made excellent provision for him.” (Holy Quran 65:12)

Is not Holy Quran giving the glad tidings to the Believers about Heaven? Please try to understand the message of God.

The Professor has also raised the Issue of *Mujahid and Jihad*. I would like to explain it first, before I go to any other subject.

The term, Jihad is misunderstood by the majority of the Muslims and non-Muslims alike. *Jihad* in Islamic terminology, means to make an effort, to endeavor and to strive in a noble way, and has been metaphorically applied to fighting in the cause of religion. Over the centuries this meaning of *Jihad* has been obliterated or at least diluted. According to the Holy Prophet there are three main, categories of *Jihad*.

- The Jihad to preach the word of God through the Holy Quran and is called the greatest Jihad (*Jihad Kabeer*). This Jihad was started the very first day the Holy Prophet started his mission and continued till

the last breath of his life. All his companions (his followers who lived during his time) also tried their utmost to participate in this Jihad. During this Jihad, I mean the Jihad of preaching the word of God, some companions lost their lives, others their children, still others their properties, but they never ever gave up, or relented. Through this Jihad the Muslims were able to win the hearts of people, and to gather them under the banner of Islam. No sword was ever used for this jihad. Rather the sword were raised against the Muslims to stop them from preaching the word of Allah. But in spite of all these hardships and persecutions, through love and affection, through the beautiful teaching of the Holy Quran, through his excellent character, the Holy Prophet of Islam and his companions attracted the unbelievers towards Islam.

- The Jihad that is waged against lower self for self-purification. In Islamic idiom it is called the greater Jihad (*Jihad Akbar*). This Jihad was also started, the day Islam was introduced by the Holy Prophet of Islam. The Holy Prophet guided his followers in every walk of their lives. He purified them and taught them the Book and the wisdom just the way Holy Quran puts it succinctly:

“He it is Who has raised among the Unlettered people a Messenger from among themselves who recites unto them His Signs, and purifies them and teaches them the Book and wisdom, although they had been before, in manifest misguidance.” (Holy Quran 62:3)

- The Jihad that is waged against the enemy of freedom of conscious as also to fight in self-defense. This is called the lesser Jihad (*Jihad Asghar*). It is mentioned in the *hadeeth* (the recorded sayings of the Holy Prophet) that on returning from an expedition (*Tabuk expedition*) the Holy Prophet said: “*We are returning from the Jihad Asghar (the lesser jihad of fighting in self-defense) to Jihad Akbar (struggle against oneself).*”

This Jihad was not started like the other two types of Jihad with the appearance of the Holy Prophet of Islam. Rather it was started after 13 years of severe persecution of the Muslims. The history of Islam records how the Holy Prophet along with his followers faced hostility and enmity by his opponents for a very long time. When there was no way out from this situation, he commanded his followers to migrate to

Abyssinia and later, to Medina. Finally, he too migrated to Medina. So, all the Muslims left Mecca, their hometown, in a very helpless condition. Still, they were not permitted by the Holy Prophet to raise their swords even in self-defense against any opponent. After the Muslims had migrated to Medina, the next year the Meccans organized their forces to attack the Muslims even in their new place of refuge, Medina. That was the time when the Almighty Allah granted the permission to the Muslims to fight in self defense as stated in the following verses of the Holy Quran say,

“Permission to fight is given to those against whom war is made, because they have been wronged—and Allah indeed has power to help them. Those who have been driven out from their homes unjustly only because they said, ‘Our Lord is Allah.’ And if Allah did not repel some men by means of others, there would surely have been pulled down cloisters and churches and synagogues and mosques, wherein the name of Allah is oft commemorated. And Allah will surely help one who helps Him. Allah is indeed Powerful, Mighty.” (Holy Quran 22:40-41)

So, the third type of Jihad was started after being attacked in their new place of refuge following a long period of severe persecution and loss of lives and property. Until then, Muslims were not allowed to retaliate, rather they were commanded to leave Mecca and migrate to Medina, nearly 250 miles away, in a very helpless condition. When they were granted permission to fight, it was for defensive purpose. These were not offensive wars. If the conditions of this Jihad are studied carefully, it will be found that they are not for any destructive purposes, rather they were permitted only to protect the human rights and to give protection to places of worship, like cloisters, churches, synagogues and mosques.

As it was stated above, Jihad has three main categories in Islam. So, the Mujahids (the defenders) would also be of three types. And the status of the Mujahids will also be according to the category of Jihad:

1. The greatest Mujahid is the person who observes the first degree of Jihad, and that is to preach the word of God, to preach the message of Islam to the others.
2. Then becomes the lower types or the second degree of Mujahids. They are those who observe Jihad to purify themselves that is, to

wage war against the hidden enemy, and which is Satan, whose inclinations run in the body as the blood flows through the veins of the body.

3. In the lowest category of Mujahid or the third class of Mujahids are those who fight against the enemy in self-defensive wars.

The Professor has given much importance to the third degree of Mujahids and ignored those first and the second degrees. So if the Paradise is the reward for the third degree of Mujahid, why not for those who belong to the first and second degrees?

Furthermore, it is wrong that in the Quranic concept of Paradise, there is a place for carnal delights or sexual pleasures. It is only a concoction of those who are obsessed by such animalistic tendencies.

8. What is Paradise?

Under the title *The Islamic Concept of Al-Jannah (Paradise)* the Professor has taken every thing in the material sense, which we don't believe in. The Quran never talks in that sense. As he has mentioned:

The Islamic concept of heaven is quite different than that of Christianity.

In Matthew 22:29 Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. [30] At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven."

The Islamic Concept of Al-Jannah (Paradise)

Ad-Dukhân "The Smoke" (Qur'anic Surah No. 44)

[44:53, 54] "Among Gardens and Springs; Dressed in fine silk and (also) in thick silk, facing each other, So (it will be), and We shall marry them to Houris (female fair ones) with wide, lovely eyes."

At-Tûr "The Mount" (Qur'anic Surah No. 52)

[52:20] "They will recline (with ease) on thrones arranged in ranks. And We shall marry them to Houris (female, fair ones) with wide lovely eyes."

Ar-Rahmân "The Most Merciful" (Qur'anic Surah No. 55)

[55:66] "In them will be two springs gushing forth water.

[55:68] In them will be fruits, and date-palms and pomegranates.

[55:70] Therein (gardens) will be fair (wives) good and beautiful;

[55:72] Houris (beautiful, fair females) restrained in pavilions."

Al-Wâq'ah "The Event" (Qur'anic Surah No. 56)

[56:22, 23] And (there will be) Houris (fair females) with wide, lovely eyes (as wives for the pious), like unto preserved pearls.

The Quran has described a highly spiritual environment which cannot be even imagined in this world. The Quran has neither described the luxuries of this World nor about carnal delights or sexual pleasures. It is also wrong that the Paradise is only through Jihad. Rather, the Quran says that every one would be rewarded by God according to his deeds and actions on the day of Judgment. That person may be a Muslim, Jew or a Christian. This is very clear from the following verse of the Holy Quran;

"Surely, the believers, and the Jews and the Christians and the Sabians, whichever party from among these truly believes in Allah and the Last Day and does good deeds, shall have their reward with their Lord and no fear shall come upon them, nor shall they grieve." (Holy Quran 2:63)

If the Professor had seriously studied the Bible, he would have not raised such objections against the Holy Quran. The concept of Paradise in the Holy Quran is not different than the concept presented by the Holy Bible:

"Then Peter began to say to Him, 'See, we have left all and followed You. So Jesus answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or

children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. (*Mark 10:28-30*)

In the above-mentioned quotation, it is mentioned that a person would receive a hundred fold in the life to come. Is it not the similar to what the Professor has objectionable in Islam?

But one thing I could not understand from the above quotation. I would be really thankful if Mr. Tadros would help me here: how would the Christians get 100 fathers in the next life?

One mother and hundred fathers! That might be a fitting reward for the Christian mothers. Now I understood what Mr. Tadros meant when he wrote "*Paradise pleasures in Islam are "Only For Men"!!!*"

9. Terrorism

About terrorists, Mr. Tadros says:

"That gives explanation why the Islamic terrorist men, with a firm will, hijacked some planes and, in full determination, crashed them into the Two World Trade Centers, killing thousands of innocent people and themselves. All promises of Paradise pleasures in Islam are given to men and nothing for women. (Big Fat Hairy Deal) Many other Muslim young men—right now—are so glad to follow their lead and do the same thing, killing two birds with one stone: achieving the "Will of Allah" and also—into the bargain—enjoying all the sexual pleasures in Al-Jannah eternally. (Lucky Devils!!!) Anyway, it is 'inappropriate' to keep all these virgins waiting for long in heaven!

Secondly, every true Muslim has many texts in the Holy Qur'an urging to fight and kill, WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, all the "Mushrekin" (infidels, i.e. Jews and Christians), till the whole earth comes into "Submission to Allah." The barbarous attack on the Two World Trade Centers in New York was not made by a 'misguided fanatic minority' of Muslims but rather by a

bunch of "true Muslim believers" acting upon 'existent Qur'anic verses' and submitting themselves, accordingly, to the Will of Allah and for the sake of Allah 'fi saebel ellah.'

Qur'anic Texts to kill both Jews and Christians

Most of the Western nations are unaware of the fact that the spirit of Islam is one of enmity, hostility and Holy War (Jihad) against both Jews and Christians. It is a demonic spirit of anti-civilization and anti-Christ.

I have already explained the true concept of Jihad. Islam does not permit any act of aggression or terrorism against any religion, may they be from Judaism or Christianity. We find specific injunctions in the Holy Quran:

"And create not disorder in the earth after it has been set in order." (Holy Quran 7:57)

"And commit not iniquity in the earth causing disorder." (Holy Quran 11:86)

Aggression, hostility, mischief and wickedness are condemned in several other verses and Muslims are commanded to work wholly for peace. Islam always encourages the freedom of conscience and the promotion of human welfare. Islam not only preaches peace and brotherhood but also promotes tolerance, broadmindedness, forbearance and complete harmony in the multi religious society.

Islam is a religion of peace, brotherhood and love basing its teachings of the Quran, Sunna and the Hadith. The Holy Prophet of Islam has advised to his followers, in his farewell address, where there was a gathering of one hundred thousand of his believers. That address can be considered as the best charter of human rights.

"All of you are equal. All men, whatever nation or tribe they may belong to, and whatever station in life they may hold are equal... No one has any right, any superiority to claim over another. You are as brothers. O men, your God is One and your ancestor is one. An Arab possesses no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab over an Arab. A white man is in no way superior to a black nor for that matter, is a black man better than a white, but only to the extent to which he discharges his duty to God and man.

The most honored among you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you... **To take any man's life or his property, or attack his honor, is unjust and wrong.** What I command you today is not meant only for today. It is meant for all time. You are expected to remember it and to act upon it until you leave this world and go to the next to meet your Maker. What I have said to you, you should communicate to the ends of the earth. Maybe those who have not heard me may benefit by it more than those who have heard."

This is what we, as Muslims are advised by the Holy Prophet of Islam. If any Muslim does not follow the commandments of the Holy Quran or practice of the Holy Prophet of Islam, he is lost and misguided person, and his action has nothing to do with Islam just as Hitler had nothing to do with the teachings of Judaism or Christianity.

So, hell to Usama Bin Laden and to all the terrorists. These are the black sheep in Islam. But individual acts are not representative of religious teachings. Such terrorists are found in the Christianity and the Judaism. Why then is Christianity or Judaism not blamed?

There are more religious extremists in Christianity than in any other religion. The character of David Koresh of Waco, Texas, is well known. He was a Christian religious fanatic, who was burned to ashes along with, almost one hundred followers. Even more tragic than that is the case of Jonestown, Guyana, where an extremist Christian religious leader poisoned 914 of his followers, killing them mercilessly, and finally committing suicide himself. I can say it is the worse example of madness, cruelty and fanaticism in the history of religion, and that credit also goes to Christianity.

Oklahoma City bombing was the act of a Christian terrorist in American, where 169 people were killed including 19 innocent children, with more than 600 people injured, all in the blink of an eye! Who was Timothy McVeigh?

Was he not a Christian extremist?

1 March 1997, Marshall Herff Apple white, known as "DO" to his followers, the son of a Presbyterian minister, took 38 lives of the members of his cult called *Heaven's Gate* in Rancho Santa Fe,

California, USA. He convinced his followers that he could take them to heaven and every one of them was easily convinced that they could ascend to heaven by committing suicide. This is because the dream of every Christian is to go to heaven. The Newsweek Magazine has reported in the following words;

"The pair gave each other silly nick-names—Tiddly and Wink, Guinea and Pig, Nincom and Poop, Tweedle and Dee, finally Do and Ti (merely notes in the celestial symphony)—to show that names mean nothing. But they also portentously called themselves The Two—after the two witnesses in the Book of Revelation who are slain by a beast from the depths before rising to heaven. Like Jesus Christ, Do and Ti believed they would be assassinated on earth and rise to heaven after three days in a cloud of light—a UFO." (*Newsweek*, April, 1997, p.32)

Newsweek Magazine has also addressed this issue in the following words:

"In other words, their chilling exit was timeless. Some experts compared Heaven's Gate to the Gnostics, early religious fanatics who felt imprisoned in their earthbound bodies. Anticipating the End Times predicted in the Book of Revelation, millennial groups have been trying to beat the rush to St. Peter's Gate for centuries. In the 16th century, whole villages of Christian "saints" self-immolated, hoping for salvation before the Fire. As the true millennium approaches in the year 2000, there will almost surely be more, and possibly more threatening, millennia lists. (*Newsweek*, April 7, 1997, p. 30)

My dear! There is more terrorism in the Americas (including South and Central) and in Europe (including Ireland, Spain and Italy) than in rest of the world. (For data on world terrorism refer to the works of Edward Mickolus, Brian Jenkins, Bruce Hoffman, the State Department, and the Rand Corporation). Historically, the first acts of terrorism were committed by the Jewish sect Sicarii in AD 66-73. Let us not forget the French Revolution's reign of terror; the Spanish Inquisition; the genocide of the American Indians and the African slaves; the German Nazis. Among the most infamous proponents of terrorism were Narodnaya Volya, Lenin and Stalin; the KKK; Marx and Engels, Che

Guevara, The Czar of Russia, Carlos Marighella, Ben Gurion and Begin who terrorized the British... (refer to works of Lacquer, Bell and Yonah). It will be an education for anyone to read the true history and data on terrorism before blaming Islam for today's problems. Please read Juergensmeyer on biological terrorism conducted by Aum Shirinkyo; Sikh Khalistani movement, Kach and extreme Jewish groups in Hebron. But, is it not hypocrisy to label actions by Christians as ideological or political struggle but it is terrorism when bigoted Muslims do it.

10. Friendship with Christians and Jews

Then it is quoted in the article by Professor Tadros:

“[5.51] O you who believe! Do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them; surely Allah does not guide the unjust people.”

This commandment of the Holy Quran is not about the peaceful normal days of life; rather it is about the time of war. During the war with the Christians or the Jewish nations, Muslims are not allowed to have friendship with the enemy at war. This commandment is due to the security point of view. Even in this advanced age, this principle is adopted. Whenever there is a war between two nations, first of all they break their diplomatic ties and close their embassies. During the attack on Afghanistan, America and all its allies put pressure on Saudi Arabian and Pakistani governments to shut down their embassies in Afghanistan and also the embassies of Afghanistan in these countries. America kept on putting pressure on these countries until they broke their diplomatic ties with Afghanistan. How then do you find fault with the Holy Quran?

However, in so far as the Muslims living in any nation are concerned, they are commanded in the Holy Quran to give full support and help and show full obedience to the nation they are living in whether it be a Christian or the Jewish nation. The Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran,

“Allah Forbids you not, respecting those who have not fought against you on account of *your* religion and who have not driven you forth from your homes, that you be

kind to them and act equitably towards them; surely Allah loves those who are equitable." (Holy Quran 60:9).

These are the teachings of the Holy Quran towards the peace loving people. Quran never commands to disturb any individual or any nation.

11. Monkeys and Swine

Then Mr. Tadros has mentioned,

[5:60] Say (O Muhammad SAW to the people of the Scripture): "Shall I inform you of something worse than that, regarding the recompense from Allâh: those (Jews) who incurred the Curse of Allâh and His Wrath, those of whom (some) He transformed into monkeys and swines, those who worshipped Tâghût (false deities); such are worse in rank (on the Day of Resurrection in the Hell-fire), and far more astray from the Right Path (in the life of this world)."

This is a metaphor language used for a very select people, those who imitate like monkeys and have the habits of swine. Similar words are found in the other Scriptures also. Even Jesus Christ used the similar words. Let me quote from the words of Jesus, what he believes about the other nations;

"And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to him, saying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon possessed.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she cries out after us.' But he answered and said, 'I am not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' Then she came and worshipped him, saying, 'Lord, help me!' But he answered and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the **little dogs**.'" (Matthew 15:22-26)

Again, Jesus advised his disciples against the non-Jews in the following words:

"Do not give **dogs** what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before **swine** lest they trample them under foot and run to attack you." (Matthew 7:6)

I would ask Mr. Tadros, who are these dogs and swine? Undoubtedly they are gentiles. That, he cannot deny. If that is so, then he also comes under the same wrath of Jesus, if he does not belong to Israelites. According to Jesus Christ all non-Jews are dogs and swine. In other words, according to this statement, over 99 out of hundred, of the human population of the world are dogs and swine.

So, first of all, the Professor should handle his case with Jesus, and then should come to the Holy Quran.

12. Islam does not teach aggression

Then, it is mentioned in his article that,

“[9:5] Then when the Sacred Months (the 1st, 7th, 11th, and 12th months of the Islâmic calendar) have passed, then kill the Mushrikûn [infidels, i.e. Christians & Jews] (see V. 2:105) wherever you find them, and capture them and besiege them, and prepare for them each and every ambush. But if they repent and perform As-Salât [5 daily Islamic Prayers] (Iqâmat-as-Salât), and give Zakât [Alms], then leave their way free. Verily, Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”

Islam never permits the wanton killing of any person without just cause, or to transgress or create disorder in the land. But, if war is imposed upon the Muslims, the Holy Quran has setup all the rules and regulations related to wars in different chapters as it says,

“And fight in the cause of Allah against those who fight against you, but do not transgress. Surely, Allah loves not the transgressors”. (Holy Quran 2:191)

The verse does not advocate fighting peace-loving people, rather, fighting against those that are always treacherously planning against the Islamic nations. And the above-mentioned statement is about the situation in the war. During the war, if the sacred months approach, Muslims must stop fighting.

Such teachings are not found in any of the other Scriptures. If there is any, show me one. It is really a very great credit, which goes to Islam. The Holy Prophet of Islam acted upon it and advised the followers to follow these commandments of God.

Then, just for correction's sake: Mr. Tadros has written word *Mushrikun*, in the reference quoted above while in the Holy Quran it is *Mushrikeen* not *Mushrikun*. He must take note of it.

Let me show you some thing from your Holy Book, Mr. Tadros, what it teaches about the Mushrikeen. It might give you wisdom to respect the others,

"If you hear it said about one of the towns that the LORD your God is giving you to live in, that scoundrels from among you have gone out and led the inhabitants of the town astray, saying, **"Let us go and worship other gods,"** whom you have not known, then you shall inquire and make a thorough investigation. If the charge is established that such an abhorrent thing has been done among you, **you shall put the inhabitants of that town to the sword, utterly destroying it and everything in it—** even putting its livestock to the sword. All of its spoil you shall gather into its public square; then burn the town and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God. It shall remain a perpetual ruin, never to be rebuilt. (Deuteronomy 13:12-16)

13. Fighting with the People of the Book

Then it is mentioned in the article in the email under reference that,

"[9:29] "Fight against those who (1) believe not in Allah, (2) nor in the Last Day, (3) nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger (4) and acknowledge not the religion of truth (i.e., Islam) among the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), until they pay the Jizyah [protection money] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued."

War with idolaters having been dealt within previous verses, fighting with the People of the Book is introduced with this verse mentioned above. The verse refers to those People of the Book who lived in Arabia. Like the idolaters of that country, they too had been actively hostile to Islam and had tried to exterminate it. These were the people who were also actively involved hypocritically, to create hatred among the Muslims and they wanted to turn them back from their faith. As at another place Holy Quran describes this situation,

"They ask thee about fighting in the Sacred Month. Say: 'Fighting therein is a great transgression, but to hinder men from the way of Allah, and to be ungrateful to Him and to hinder men from the Sacred Mosque, and to turn out its people therefrom, is a greater sin with Allah; and persecution is worse than killing.' And they will not cease fighting you until they turn you back from your faith, if they can. And whoso from among you turns back from his faith and dies while he is a disbeliever, it is they whose works shall be vain in this world and the next. These are the inmates of the Fire and therein shall they abide". (Holy Quran 2:218)

So the verse under discussion commands the Muslims to fight with the unbelievers unless they stop their evil designs and agree to live as their loyal and peaceful subjects. The *Jizya*, referred to in the verse, was the tax, which such non-Muslims had to pay as free subjects of the Muslim State in return for the protection they enjoyed under it. Islam has ordained that in Arabia, the birthplace of Islam and its headquarters, only the People of the Book, and not idolaters, could live as subjects by paying the *Jizya*, while outside Arabia all non-Muslims could live under Muslim Government on payment of this tax. Arabia, being the cradle and center of Islam and, as it were, the citadel thereof, was to be kept free from idolaters. It should also be noted that as against *Jizya* which was imposed on non-Muslims, the tax imposed on Muslims is called *Zakat* which is a heavier tax than *Jizya*, and Muslims, in addition to this tax, had to perform military service which was very hard in those days and from which non-Muslims were exempt. Thus, the latter in a way fared better, for they had to pay a light tax and were also free from military service.

14. The Identity of Uzair

In the article Mr. Tadros has asked one question inviting all Muslim Clerics and Scholars:

My dear you have not dealt with any Muslim Scholar. I would even say you have no idea about the Muslim Scholars otherwise you would have not given such

challenge. I am not a scholar, but I would try to handle your case. Let me quote your question first;

“[9.30] “And the Jews say: Uzair is the son of Allah; and the Christians say: The Messiah is the son of Allah; these are the words of their mouths; they imitate the saying of those who disbelieved before; may Allah destroy them; how they are turned away!”

I ask all Muslim clerics and scholars to kindly tell us who, on earth, is that **darn Uzair** that the Jews consider to be son of Allah? Mr. Uzair is never mentioned in the Old Testament, Talmud, Mishnah or any other textbook of history whatsoever.”

Good Question!

I will tell you about the Uzair you are asking.

The name Uzair mentioned in the verse, quoted above is the name of the prophet Ezra, which still exist in the present day Bible. Ezra is the changed form of the name Uzair. Ezra (a Hebrew name), abbreviated from Azariah meaning “Yahweh (God) helps,” was a descendant of Seraiah, the high priest, and, being himself a member of the priestly order, was known also as Ezra the Priest. He was one of the most important personages of his day and had far-reaching influence on the development of Judaism. He was especially honored among the Prophets of Israel. In fact, he marks the springtime in the national history of Judaism and is regarded and quoted as the type of person most competent and learned in the Law. The Rabbis associate his name with several important institutions. Renan has remarked in the Preface to his *History of the People of Israel* that the definite constitution of Judaism may be dated only from the time of Ezra. In Rabbinical literature Ezra was considered worthy of being the vehicle of the Law, had it not been already given through Moses. According to tradition, he died at the age of 120 in Babylonia. He worked in close collaboration with Nehemiah. Ezra lived in the 5th century B.C.

But if Tadros is still not satisfied then he should provide me the Holy Bible, I mean the word of God. I hope he understood my demand and question. I am asking him the Bible that was revealed to the prophets from God and not the present day Bible polluted by the Christians and the Jews. If he likes, I can prove to him from these

existing books of the Bible, that they are not in their original form, and lot of changes have been made during the passage of time, and the same thing might have happened to the name Uzair. If not the whole Bible, let us examine just Torah and the Gospels.

Is it not true that the Christians and the Jews believe that the Torah is the law of God revealed to Moses and written by Moses himself?

Yes, he cannot deny.

Deuteronomy, the fifth book of Torah is considered most authentic, by the Christians and the Jews. But it discloses the whole secret of the authenticity of Torah, and of course of the Bible also. The book which was revealed by God and written by Moses describes the *death of Moses*, not only his death but also his burial and grave:

"So Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor, but no one knows his grave to this day" (Deuteronomy. 34:5-6)

The above quotation is sufficient to disclose the whole secret of Christianity.

How it is possible that Moses, the writer of the book of Deuteronomy is describing his own death and burial? Is there any iota of doubt that the writer of the book of Deuteronomy cannot be Moses? So Torah is changed. It is not the real Torah that was written by Moses.

The Bible is passing through, a very crucial situation. Every day there is a new change, and there are versions after versions of the Bible. If you don't mind, can you show me verse # 21 in chapter #17 of the Gospel of Matthew, in Revised Standard Version?

No, You would never, because it is not there. If The Christian can remove Verses from the Gospels, what about the name **Uzair**, is it not easy?

15. Enmity of Christians

Then he mentioned, in the article,

"[5:82] Verily, you will find the strongest among men in enmity to the believers (Muslims) the Jews and those

who are Al-Mushrikūn [the infidels, i.e. Christians]" (see V.2: 105)".

My dear why are you struggling so hard to create hatred among the people? Are you paid by some one?

The above quotation has disclosed the whole secret, and the enmity of his heart against Islam. In the actual verse of the Holy Quran Jews and those who associate partners with God are mentioned having enmity against Muslims, not the Christians. But he has hypocritically added the name of the Christians also. Contrary to that the Holy Quran is describing Christians as nearest in love to the believers. Let me give the actual quotation of the Holy Quran for the readers to decide;

Thou shall certainly find the Jews and those who associate partners with God to be the most vehement of men in enmity against the Believers. **And thou shall assuredly find those who say, 'We are Christians,' to be the nearest in love to the Believers.** That is because amongst them are savants and monks and because they are not proud. (Holy Quran 5:82)

The above-mentioned statement is for the specific circumstances, because the Holy Quran never neglected Jews or the Christians in totality, as it is mentioned in the Holy Quran regarding them:

They are not all alike. Among the People of the Book there is a party who stand by their covenant; they recite the word of Allah in the hours of night and prostrate themselves before Him.

They believe in Allah and the Last Day, and enjoin, what is good and forbid evil, and hasten, vying with one another, in good works. And these are among the righteous.

And whatever good they do, they shall not be denied its due reward; and Allah well knows the God-fearing. (Holy Quran 3:114-116)

16. Islamic Wars are Defensive

Proceeding onwards, it is mentioned in the article,

"[2.191] And kill them wherever you find them, and

drive them out from whence they drove you out, and persecution is severer than slaughter, and do not fight with them at the Sacred Mosque until they fight with you in it, but if they do fight you, then slay them; such is there recompense of the unbelievers."

This is all about self-defense as it is clear from the previous verse of the Holy Quran, which is deliberately ignored by the writer;

"And fight in the cause of Allah against those who fight against you, but do not transgress. Surely, Allah loves not the transgressors". (Holy Quran 2:190)

This commandment is to fight with those who initiate war against the believers, not with those who are the peace loving people. It is very nicely described in the verse under discussion, "and drive them out from whence they drove you out." It means that if the Muslims are attacked first, and the unbelievers occupied their land then God has commanded the Muslims to get their lands back from them. And if the enemy reaches the Sacred Mosque (*The Holy Ka'ba*) then stop fighting. But if they fight there, then you have every freedom to fight with them. The impression in the above quotation is given as if the Muslims are commanded to fight with the innocent people and kill them at the spot is entirely wrong. Almighty Allah is saying that since the unbelievers have driven the Muslims out from their land therefore the Muslims also have right to get their lands back from them and, as they (the enemy) want to destroy the Muslims and to kill them, Muslims also have every right to kill them. So, what is wrong with this verse? It seems that the writer is totally biased having no sense of justice.

17. Friendship with Non-Believers

Then, the learned Professor says in his article,

"[4.89] They desire that you should disbelieve as they have disbelieved, so that you might be (all) alike; therefore take not from among them friends until they fly (their homes) in Allah's way; but if they turn back, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them, and take not from among them a friend or a helper."

The writer wanted to give the impression from the above verse of the Holy Quran that the Muslims are going to kill any one who wanted

to preach their religion to the Muslims (*like some Americans, who were arrested by the Taliban in Afghanistan, while they were preaching Christianity to them*).

Or at least, if it is not killing, Muslims should not take the unbelievers for friends. This is entirely wrong, because the above verse of the Holy Quran is about the hypocrites, those who were living among the Muslims, and pretending to be Muslims, engaged in cheating and changing the mind of the Muslims, secretly subverting their religion, and creating hatred against Islam.

So, the Almighty Allah is advising the believers to expose the hypocrisy of the hypocrites by asking them to migrate with the believers, if they were really a part of the Muslim community. But they would never leave their home because of their double standard. In this way their enmity to Islam would be made manifestly clear and it will be ample proof of the insincerity in their belief and that they were the secret enemies of Islam. In these circumstances Holy Quran says that the Muslims that they have every right to punish them and not to make such people as friend or helper. The pervious verse (4:88) of the Holy Quran is very clear about the hypocrisy of the unbelievers. This was intentionally not quoted by the Professor. Let me Quote that verse also,

“What has happened to you that you are divided into two parties regarding the hypocrites? And Allah has overthrown them because of what they earned. Desire ye to guide him whom Allah has caused to perish? And for him whom Allah causes to perish thou shall not find a way.” (Holy Quran 4:88)

It is a wrong impression created by Mr. Tadros that this verse is about killing innocent people and not to make them friends. It is a misinterpretation of the Quranic verses so as to cheat the people and to create hatred against Islam. But the Professor would never succeed, because people are wise enough to understand his mischievous design.

Let us see what the Bible says with regard to such situations when the people hypocritically do not cooperate with the believers.

“When Moses saw that the people were running wild (for Aaron had let them run wild, to the derision of their enemies), then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, “Who is on the LORD’S side? Come to me!” And all

the sons of Levi gathered around him. He said to them, **"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side, each of you! Go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill your brother, your friend, and your neighbor.' The sons of Levi did as Moses commanded, and about three thousand of the people fell on that day.** Moses said, "Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the LORD, each one at the cost of a son or a brother, and so have brought a blessing on yourselves this day." (Exodus 32:25-29)

18. Importance of Pacts in Islam

Then, Mr. Tadros goes on to misinterpret another verse of the Holy Quran. He writes:

"[4.91] You will find others who desire that they should be safe from you and secure from their own people; as often as they are sent back to the mischief they get thrown into it headlong; therefore if they do not withdraw from you, and (do not) offer you peace and restraints their hands, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them; and against these We have given you a clear authority."

I could not understand the devious attempt at distorting the quotations of the Holy Quran. Verses number 88, 89, 90 and 91 of chapter 4 are in a proper sequence, and the meanings can be understood easily. But the Professor first presented verse number 89, while verse number 88 was connected to it to give a wrong impression to the readers about the Holy Quran. Then, he left verse number 90 and quoted the next verse so the reader should not understand the true spirit of the Holy Quran. There should be fear of God in discussion of these religious affairs. Holy Quran says in this regard,

"Only those of His servants who possess knowledge fear God." (Holy Quran 35:29)

If the scholars were to become corrupted, whom would the people trust and depend upon?

Would there be any security for peace and harmony?

Let me explain these verses of the Holy Quran;

The preceding verses (88 and 89) enjoined the taking of disciplinary action against the Bedouin hypocrite of the countryside around Medina. Then Verse Number 90 reads as under:

“Except those who are connected with a people between whom and you there is a pact, or those who come to you, while their hearts shrink from fighting you or fighting their own people. And if Allah had so pleased, He could have given them power against you, then they would have surely fought you. So, if they keep aloof from you and fight you not, and make you an offer of peace, then remember that Allah has allowed you no way of aggression against them.” (Holy Quran 4:90)

This verse (90) makes exceptions in the case of:

- (1) Those who went over to, or were connected with, some tribe having an alliance with the Muslims.
- (2) That who came over to Medina and had leanings towards Islam, though their attitude was still one of hesitancy and vacillation.

In fact, Islam attaches great importance to pacts, express or implied, and would, in no case, tolerate their breach. Incidentally, the verse also shows that, *Jihad* is permitted only against those who first make war upon the Muslims or their allies or from whom an attack is apprehended.

Then in the next verse (91) which is under discussion, those people are addressed, who had no alliance with Muslims or any tribe having an alliance with them. They were timeservers who awaited their opportunity. The difference between these people and those mentioned in the previous verse is that the latter had some sort of alliance with this or that party though they did not possess the strength to assert themselves, while the former only sought security by deceitful means and hastened to make common cause with the enemies of Islam whenever invited to do so. Fighting was enjoined against this class of people, unless they entered into a **treaty of peace** with Muslims and loyally observed its terms. So, if they are sincere and peace loving people then they should make clear decision, otherwise they remain a threat to the Muslim nation. That has been the corner stone of modern international diplomacy as well.

Now let me quote from the Bible and see its verdict on how to treat the people who accept the offer of peace and those who do not.

"When you draw near to a town to fight against it, offer it terms of peace. If it accepts your terms of peace and surrenders to you, then all the people in it shall serve you at forced labor. If it does not submit to you peacefully, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it; and when the LORD your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword. You may, however, take as your booty the women, the children, livestock, and everything else in the town, all its spoil. You may enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which the LORD your God has given you. Thus you shall treat all the towns that are very far from you, which are not towns of the nations here. But as for the towns of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, you must not let anything that breathes remain alive. You shall annihilate them—the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites—just as the LORD your God has commanded, so that they may not teach you to do all the abhorrent things that they do for their gods, and you thus sin against the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy 20:10-18)

Mr. Tadros, is this what you wanted to know? This is the dark side of the Biblical teachings. You cannot put these teachings before any society or any nation.

19. God's Wrath

Here we go again, Mr. Tadros. You quote the Quran:

"[46:25] Everything will it destroy by the command of its Lord! Then by the morning they—nothing was to be seen but (the ruins of) their houses! Thus do We recompense the people who are Mujrimun (polytheists, disbelievers, sinners)!"

This verse is quoted in such a way, as if this destruction is brought by the Muslims. But, in this context Muslims have nothing to do with the destruction. It is a narration of how the wrath of God appeared in the

form of clouds and rain. The preceding verse (24) is giving the detail of it, which is deliberately left out by the learned Professor Tadros. Can I blame Christians and Jews about what happened to Sodom and Gomorra? The incident described above is similar to that. No body can be blamed. On a side note, just for the information of the Professor, he has written the word *Mujrimun*, in the reference quoted above while in the Holy Quran it is *Mujrimeen* not *Mujrimun*. He must take note of it.

20. Islamic Monotheism

Then, it is mentioned in his article;

“[46:27] And indeed We have destroyed towns (populations) round about you, and We have (repeatedly) shown (them) the Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc) in various ways that they might return (to the truth and believe in the Oneness of Allah—Islamic Monotheism).”

This verse is also about the wrath of God as is described above in the verse number 25, so Muslims should not be responsible for all such destruction. But here I would like to make a point by making a clarification about “**Monotheism**”. It is not “**Islamic Monotheism**” **only**. This is what has been preached by all the prophets, even by Moses and Jesus. Let me quote what Moses preached to his people:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

And Jesus also delivered the same message, as it is very clear in the Gospels:

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘**Hear, O Israel: the Lord**

our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12: 28-31)

Do you think that the message given by the Holy Quran is different from the message of Moses and Jesus Christ?

No, it is the same, but it is hard for you to swallow.

21. God's blessings on Ishmael

Then, about Ishmael, Mr. Tadros says:

"Genesis 16:12 **"He will be a wild donkey of a man;** his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

It is the crookedness of the learned Professor's mind. The word **"donkey"** is not in the translation of King James Version of the Bible. It shows how the Christians are prejudiced against Islam.

The blessings related to Ishmael in the Bible are totally forgotten. Such as:

"And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he get and I will make him a great nation." (Genesis 17:20)

The twelve princes mentioned above are the princes of his twelve sons. They were blessed so much so that they really became a great nation, and their twelve great and mighty tribes are mentioned in *Genesis 25:13-16*. Blessings of God upon Ishmael cannot be denied, which are properly recorded in the Bible and in history as well. Also, in the book of *Isaiah (21:13-17)* a very grand prophecy related to the sons of Ishmael and the Holy Prophet of Islam is recorded. Such glory is not given to any Biblical prophet, as was prophesied and given to the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. He was the cornerstone of the history of mankind. And these were all blessings related to Abraham, Hagar and Ishmael.

22. God's Design

Then it is mentioned in his article:

[8:12] "I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers, smite ye above their necks and smite all their finger-tips off them."

In this quotation the impression is being created as if this brutality is practiced by the Muslims. This has been done deceitfully by quoting just a portion of the verse deliberately leaving the rest of the verse. The full verse of the Holy Quran is quoted below. The readers should see the dishonesty of the writer.

"When thy Lord revealed to the angels, saying. I am with you; so give firmness to those who believe. I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Smite, then, the upper parts of their necks, and smite off all finger-tips." (Holy Quran 8: 12)

Is not God's Plan, implemented through the angels?

Can someone point out what is the involvement of Muslims in it? Nothing. Then why is the Professor blaming the Muslims.

23. Fitnah never gives the meaning of disbelief or polytheism

Then, Mr. Tadros quotes the Quran again:

[8:39] "And fight them until there is no more Fitnah (disbelief and Polytheism: i.e. worshipping others besides Allah) and the religion (worship) will all be for Allah Alone [in the whole of the world!]. But if they cease (worshipping others besides Allah), then certainly, Allah is All-Seer of what they do!"

There is nothing mentioned in this verse of the Holy Quran about worship of Allah. He himself has created this impression by putting some brackets in the text. Readers should remove the brackets from the text and see the beauties of the teachings of the Holy Quran. Actually this verse and the previous verse are about the battle of Badr. First of all I would explain about the battle of the Badr and then I would explain the verse quoted above. The battle of Badr was the very first battle fought by the Muslims, when one thousand skilled and fully armed warriors attacked upon the Muslim after the latter had taken refuge in

Medina, 250 miles away from the hometown of Mecca. On the other side there were only 313 helpless Muslims including young and old who possessed no means to fight or defend themselves with. In the battle the unbelievers faced a crushing defeat. This was the first defensive war fought by the Muslims against the unbelievers. As I mentioned the verse under discussion and the preceding verse, both are related to the battle of the Badr. Let me quote that verse also and then I would come to the point;

Say to those who disbelieve, if they desist, that which is past will be forgiven them; and if they return thereto, then verily the example of the former peoples has already gone before them. (Holy Quran 8:38)

Actually what happened was that after the battle of Badr, in which the opponent of Islam suffered a crushing defeat, they were once more invited to desist from fighting. It was promised to them that if they ceased hostilities against Islam, their past offenses would be forgiven. At the same time they were warned that if they returned to war they would meet with the same fate, which the former enemies of truth had met with.

Then in the next verse it is mentioned that the fighting was to be continued only so long as there was persecution and men were not free to profess the religion they liked. If the opponents of Islam desisted from fighting, Muslims were also to desist. Islam fought only to defend itself and to establish the freedom of conscience.

Then the word Fitnah has also been incorrectly presented by the Professor in his statement. In Arabic the word Fitnah means persecution, trouble, mischief, or trial. Fitnah never gives the meaning of **disbelief or polytheism** as the writer has mentioned in the reference.

Let me give you a glimpse of the fate of those people who disturb the peace of others, in the light of the Biblical teachings. It is a horrible picture recorded in the Bible.

"And the Gibeonites sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, "Do not abandon your servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us; for all the kings of the Amorites who live in the hill country are gathered against us." So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the fighting

force with him, all the mighty warriors. The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have handed them over to you; not one of them shall stand before you."... Meanwhile, these five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah. And it was told Joshua, "The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah." Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them; but do not stay there yourselves; pursue your enemies, and attack them from the rear. Do not let them enter their towns, for the LORD your God has given them into your hand." When Joshua and the Israelites had finished inflicting a very great slaughter on them, until they were wiped out, and when the survivors had entered into the fortified towns, all the people returned safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah; no one dared to speak against any of the Israelites.

Then Joshua said, **"Open the mouth of the cave, and bring those five kings out to me from the cave."** They did so, and brought the five kings out to him from the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. When they brought the kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the Israelites, and said to the chiefs of the warriors who had gone with him, **"Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings."** Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. And Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous; for thus the LORD will do to all the enemies against whom you fight." **Afterward Joshua struck them down and put them to death, and he hung them on five trees.** And they hung on the trees until evening. At sunset Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves; they set large stones against the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day. (Joshua 10:6-27)

24. God Always Supports His Servants

Mr. Tadros goes on to quote the Holy Quran:

"[8:65] "O Prophet (Muhammad SAW)! Urge the

believers to fight. If there are twenty steadfast persons amongst you, they will overcome two hundred, and if there be a hundred steadfast persons they will overcome a thousand of those who disbelieve, because they (the disbelievers) are people who do not understand.”

The writer should not be alarmed about the above statement in the Holy Quran. It always happens that the followers of the prophets become dominant in spite of their lack of material resources and scarcity of numbers. The followers of Abraham, Noah and Moses triumphed over the disbelievers in their day. In the same way the same happen in the time of the Holy Prophet of Islam. Unfortunately, according to Christian Bible writers, Jesus, as the Son of God, failed.

25. Turning to the One Lord

It is a very good advice given by the writer at the end of the article to the Christians, to repent and return to the Lord, but if only they pay attention to this call.

I really appreciate his courage in calling them towards the Lord;

“O Western Christian Nations! Wake up before it is too late. Come back to the Lord before you get destroyed from within and from without. Humble yourselves before the Lord and repent. Now or never!”

I hope the Lord; towards whom Tadros is calling the Christians is the Creator of the universe not Jesus Christ. If I am true then you have done a great job, otherwise your whole struggle is in vain. Because Jesus never accepted the title of Lord, and used very strong words against those lovers of Christ who call him Lord as it is mentioned in the Gospel.

“Not every one who is saying to me Lord, lord, shall come into the reign of the heavens; but he who is doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, lord, have we not in thy name prophesied? and in thy name cast out demons? and in thy name done many mighty things? **and then I will acknowledge to them, that—I never knew you, depart from me ye who are working lawlessness.**” (Matthew 7:21-23)

Being an American Muslim I want to appeal to every American citizen, whatever race or color he/she may belong to, or whatever religion he/she may follow, we must put hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder, to strengthen our ties of brotherhood and to make our nation strong. And that is only possible if we recognize our enemy. Our enemy is not Judaism, Christianity, Islam or any other religion, but there are some black sheep, and some fanatics, so-called religious scholars. These are the wolves in sheep cloths. They are the real threat to our society and to the nation and finally to the whole world. These extremists are in every religion; we must identify them and bring them to the limelight. There is a great need for the awareness of the general public about all these factors. Whatever I have written is in response to Mr. Victor Tadros's article. I fear that people like Mr. Tadros can poison the society and pollute our environment within no time if they are not investigated by the people. If you study his article you would see how he twisted the words to give them a negative impression about Islam. He misquoted the references to create hatred against Islam. This is why I felt the need to refute his article. I don't have any hatred against Christianity, Judaism or any other religion, rather I have great respect and honor for all the religions and for all human beings, without discrimination of any race or color.

NOTE:

Reference numbers of the Holy Quran, presented by me, might differ with the verses of the Holy Quran you have, because some translators don't number the first verse of the chapters of the Holy Quran. So please take note of it.

Emphases in references are author's.

Contributing to the Muslim Sunrise

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Upcoming Event



Khilāfat Day: Saturday, May 26, 2000 (Local Level)

Meetings concerning the importance of the institution of vicegerency (khilafat) in Islam established in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community since May 1908.



Jalsa Salana/National Convention USA, June 28-30, 2002

Annual gathering of US Ahmadi Muslims at their headquarters in Silver Spring, MD



Jalsa Salana/National Convention Canada, July 5-7, 2002

Annual gathering of Canadian Ahmadi Muslims at their headquarters in Toronto, Ont



Jalsa Salana/International Convention UK, July 26-27, 2002

Annual gathering of Ahmadi Muslims from all over the world at Islamabad in UK.



National Youth Rally, August 2-4

US Khuddam hold their annual ijtimā in Philadelphia, PA



Regional Tabligh Classes

January 19-20, April 6-7, June 8-9

Regional Tarbiyyat Classes

March 17, June 16, September 15, December 22

Regional Ta'lim-ul-Qur'an Classes

May 18: Old Bridge, NJ May 19: Queens, NY August 31: San Jose, CA
September 1: Chino, CA December 21-22: Houston, TX

Ladies' Rallies

August 9-11: Chicago, IL August 16-18: Mayland

August 23-25: San Jose, CA



Local Ahmadiyya Muslim Communities are scheduled to celebrate the

Noble Character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad,

peace and blessings of Allah be on him, on Sunday, September 22, 2002.



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Conditions of *Bai'at* (Initiation)

in The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam

by *Hadrat* Mirza Ghulām Ahmad of Qādiān

The Promised Messiah and Mahdi (peace be upon him)

The initiate shall solemnly promise:

I. That he/she shall abstain from *Shirk* (association of any partner with God) right up to the day of his/her death.

II. That he/she shall keep away from falsehood, fornication, adultery, trespasses of the eye, debauchery, dissipation, cruelty, dishonesty, mischief and rebellion; and will not permit himself/herself to be carried away by passions, however strong they may be.

III. That he/she shall regularly offer the five daily prayers in accordance with the commandments of God and the Holy Prophet (*peace and blessings of Allah be upon him*); and shall try his/her best to be regular in offering the Tahajjud (pre-dawn supererogatory Prayers) and invoking *Darūd* (blessings) on the Holy Prophet (*peace and blessings of Allah be upon him*); that he/she shall make it his/her daily routine to ask forgiveness for his/her sins, to remember the bounties of God and to praise and glorify Him.

IV. That under the impulse of any passions, he/she shall cause no harm whatsoever to the creatures of Allah in general, and Muslims in particular, neither by his/her tongue nor by his/her hands nor by any other means.

V. That he/she shall remain faithful to God in all circumstances of life, in sorrow and happiness, adversity and prosperity, in felicity and trials; and shall in all conditions remain resigned to the decree of Allah and keep himself/herself ready to face all kinds of indignities and sufferings in His way and shall never turn away from it at the onslaught of any misfortune; on the contrary, he/she shall march forward.

VI. That he/she shall refrain from following un-Islamic customs and lustful inclinations, and shall completely submit himself/herself to the authority of the Holy Qur'an; and shall make the Word of God and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet (*peace and blessings of Allah be upon him*) the guiding principles in every walk of his/her life.

VII. That he/she shall entirely give up pride and vanity and shall pass all his/her life in humbleness, cheerfulness, forbearance and meekness.

VIII. That he/she shall hold faith, the honor of faith, and the cause of Islam dearer to him/her than his/her life, wealth, honor, children and all other dear ones.

IX. That he/she shall keep himself/herself occupied in the service of God's creatures for His sake only; and shall endeavor to benefit mankind to the best of his/her God-given abilities and powers.

X. That he/she shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of God, pledging obedience to me in everything good, for the sake of Allah, and remain faithful to it till the day of his/her death; that he/she shall exert such a high devotion in the observance of this bond as is not to be found in any other worldly relationship and connection demanding devoted dutifulness.

(Translated from *Ishtihār Takmil-i-Tabligh*. January 12, 1889)

مسلم سنرائز

Whatever good they do, they shall not be denied its due reward

They are not all alike. Among the People of the Book there is a party who stand by their covenant; they recite the word of Allah in the hours of night and prostrate themselves before Him.

They believe in Allah and the Last Day, and enjoin, what is good and forbid evil, and hasten, vying with one another, in good works. And these are among the righteous.

And whatever good they do, they shall not be denied its due reward; and Allah well knows the God-fearing.

(Holy Quran 3:114-116)

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